



# Raider Review



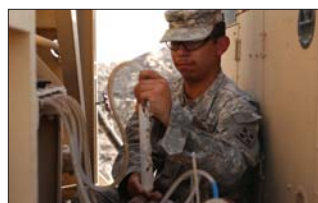
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*U.S. Army photo courtesy of 4th Spt. Bn.*

**Taking care of Iraq's future...** Pvt. Shavanna Mathews, assigned to Co. C, 4th Spt. Bn., 1st BCT, 4th Inf. Div., attends to a small patient in Mushada recently.

## Iraqi police rolling with new trucks, equipment

By Sgt. 1st Class Brent Hunt  
*Editor, Raider Review*

**I**n an effort to make the Taji district north of Baghdad a safer place to live, Soldiers from Fort Hood, Texas, and Fort

Leonard Wood, Mo., are providing the Iraqi police stations in Taji, Saab al Bour, Mushada and Tarmiya with 96 new Chevrolet 3500 trucks to help the police units curb sectarian violence in the region, Aug. 26.

Soldiers from the 1st Brigade Combat Team, 4th

Infantry Division, and the 463rd Military Police Company, attached to the 1st BCT for Operation Iraqi Freedom 05-07, are distributing the new trucks, repairing the districts disabled police trucks, beefing up police personnel and providing them with (go to page 14, IPs)——

# Time to hit 'refresh' on all tasks

By Col. James Pasquarette  
Commander, 1st BCT

Soldiers of the Raider Brigade: it's Sept. 1 as I write this article. Three months from today a majority of the brigade will be back at Fort Hood, Texas. Here's some guidance as we head into the home stretch for this deployment.



First, stay focused on today. The worst thing you can do is start to think about what you are going to do once we redeploy. Although it is natural to do so, it will lead to a lack of focus while preparing for and/or conducting combat operations. I challenge you to stay focused every day on the task immediately at hand. Hit "refresh" on your preparation tasks – I know they are stale at this point in the

deployment. I've done this with my own PSD – and our patrol preparation has improved markedly. Bottom line: every day is a new day here in Iraq. As soon as you start to think today will be just like yesterday is the day you'll be calling in a air medevac... trust me on this one.

Second, take a hard look at your equipment. Just about everything we have will be left for our replacements from the 1st Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division. It is important that we start now to get our tanks, Bradley's, HMMWVs, and everything else in the best condition it can be. I want to have everything serviced so that our replacements will not have to conduct a service until Feb. 7, 2007. We have ridden this equipment pretty hard, but we'll turn it over in the best condition possible if we start working on this now.

Third, I want to push hard across all lines of operation over the next three months. We now have the hard earned experience you gain only through operating here for eight months. We need to take this experience and apply it aggressively over the time that is left. Too many

units "coast" home. We will not. I want to continue growing ISF capability – especially IPs – across the area of operation. I want to continue improving governance functions at the Nahia and Qada levels. We'll continue to transition key parts of our battlespace to the ISF when conditions exist to do so. We'll continue to improve essential services in conjunction with the local councils. Finally, we will continue to pursue and neutralize the insurgents in our area of operation as we have done so for the first eight months. Again, we now have the experience to leverage our effectiveness – we must take advantage of this over the last few months.

Finally, I want us all to continue to protect the force. I am starting to see a slight upturn in accidents. Silly ones – HMMWVs running into stationary objects, Soldiers getting hurt unnecessarily on the FOB, etc. I believe this is tied to my first point above (thinking about the future when there is plenty to think about right now). I also see too many of our vehicles speeding – especially on (go to page 5, Thunder)

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# My interpretation of Army Values

By Command Sgt. Maj. Robert Wells  
*Command Sergeant Major, 1st BCT*

**Y**ou develop an ethical standard over time. It doesn't just happen overnight. You grow into it over the years of interacting with others around you. But there are some things you can do to help yourself along. One is to read and understand the Army's Core Values. Lofty words are sometimes hard to understand and even harder to put into practice.

**Loyalty** means we trust you, and in return you have to trust your battle buddy and your leaders to be there when you need them most. Your personal mission is to support the squad, platoon or company as best you can to get the task accomplished whether it's an offensive, defensive or



supporting operation.

It's your **Duty** to make the mission a success. For instance, you have an obligation to maintain your weapon, your equipment and keep yourself informed about the enemy situation. You are *responsible* for cleaning your weapon. The team leader is *responsible* for ensuring the Team's weapons are clean. You are held *accountable* to the team leader for properly cleaning your weapon. The team leader is *accountable* to the squad leader for the cleanliness of the team's weapons.

**Respect** yourself and your comrades. You have volunteered to "*deploy, engage and destroy the enemies of The United States*". That's something very few Americans can say and you should be as proud of yourself as I am of you and what you're doing here in Iraq. Respect your battle buddy and help them be a better Soldier. Respect your leaders and the sacrifices they've gone through to attain their rank.

**Selfless Service** is what you're doing now and after eight months of combat, I think you've gained an appreciation for what you're giving up to be here representing the U.S. Army.

Your **Honor** is the respect and

admiration you gain from your fellow Soldiers. It's built on your reputation of being someone we can turn to get the job done. We depend on each and every one of you to know your craft and we rely on you to do your part in this war. For example, I admire the work our medical folks do for us and the unflinching manner in which they throw themselves into providing the best medical care whether it's out in our AO or on the field surgeon's table at Charlie Med.

**Integrity** is a matter of being an honest person. Though it's hard to do sometimes, especially when you've done something wrong, the ability to tell the truth even if it means you or one of your friends may get in trouble is a measure of your integrity.

**Personal courage** is having the nerve to do something that may be dangerous. You have to be committed to the successful completion of your part in the mission. We're depending on you. A Soldier must concentrate on the tasks they are given for the mission and execute them in any type of situation. You may be pinned down in an ambush or an IED attack, but keeping a level head and carrying out your duties displays a type of courage we all hope to have when the time (go to page 5, Actions)

## There is no greater sacrifice...

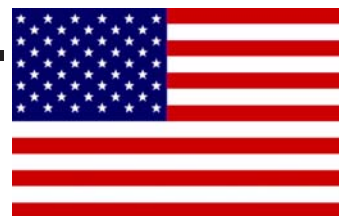
**Master Sgt. Brad Clemmons**  
732nd ECES, Detachment 5  
Aug. 17, 1968 - Aug. 21, 2006

**Sgt. Moises Jazmin**  
Co. B, 1st Bn., 66th AR  
July 21, 1981 - Aug. 27, 2006

**Spc. Qixing Lee**  
Co. B, 1st Bn., 66th AR  
June 12, 1986 - Aug. 27, 2006

**Spc. Shaun Allen Novak**  
Co. B, 1st Bn., 66th AR  
Feb. 12, 1985 - Aug. 27, 2006

**Spc. Tristan Caleb Smith**  
Co. B, 1st Bn., 66th AR  
March 24, 1983 - Aug. 27, 2006





# Raider Brigade Chaplain's Corner:

## Fog obscures your view, not your faith

By Chaplain (Maj.) Steve Feriante  
*1st BCT Chaplain*

**T**he California coast was shrouded in fog that 4th of July morning in 1952. Just 21 miles to the west on Catalina Island a 34-year-old woman waded into the water and began swimming toward California, determined to be the first woman to swim the distance. Her name was Florence Chadwick and she had already been the first woman to swim the English Channel in both directions.

The water was numbing cold and the fog was so thick she could barely see the boats that accompanied her. Millions watched on national television as several times sharks got near her and had to be driven away with rifle shots. As the hours ticked away, she continued to swim. Fatigue had never been an issue for her in these types of swims... it was the bone-chilling cold of the water.

More than 15 hours later, numbed with the cold, Florence asked to be taken out of the water. She couldn't complete the swim. Her mother and her trainer who followed alongside in a boat told her not to quit because they were nearing land. But when Florence looked toward the California coast, all she could see was the dense fog.

A few minutes later... at 15 hours and 55 minutes... she was taken out of the water. It was not until hours later, when her body began to thaw,

that she felt the shock of failure. In an interview with a reporter she said, "Look, I'm not excusing myself. But if I could have seen land, I might have made it."

She had stopped her swim only a half mile from the California coast. Later she was to reflect that she had been licked not by fatigue or even the cold. Rather, the fog had defeated her because it obscured her goal. It had blinded her reason, her eyes and her heart.

That swim was the only time Florence Chadwick ever quit. Two months later, she swam the same channel and fog obscured her view, but this time she swam with her faith... recognizing somewhere behind the fog was her destination. Not only was she the first woman to swim the

Catalina Channel, but she beat the men's record by two hours.

As we lift our eyes and see the end of our deployment, it's easy to take our eyes off the mission and become distracted with the peripherals of transition. We must not let the "Fog of War" deflect, divert, or distract us. As we approach our "coastline," we must stay focused on our goal of bringing peace and freedom to this troubled land. Our sacrifice has been noble and just. Now we must keep the pressure on our Iraqi comrades-in-arms. The peace and freedom of their country will shortly rest with them. May the good Lord help us to make a good hand-off.

"Keep focused on that goal... we're on the right track, let's stay on it." (Paul to the Philippians)



U.S. Army photo by Spc. Karl Johnson

**Top CENTCOM enlisted visits 1st BCT...** Command Chief Master Sgt. Curtis Brownhill, CENTCOM, spends a few minutes chatting with Pvt. Mitchell Hullman, 1st Bn., 66th AR, in Mushada, Aug. 14 during his visit with Soliders throughout the 1st BCT, 4th Inf. Div. area.

# Thunder Battalion joins 1st BCT team

(continued from page 2)  
Camp Taji. This is stupid (I don't have a better word to describe it). Off the FOB, I want to continue to learn and adapt our tactics, techniques and procedures until we leave. The insurgents continue to watch us every day – and adapt their techniques

accordingly. The minute we think we have everything figured out in this environment, is the minute you'll be surprised.

I want to welcome aboard the 4th Battalion, 11th Field Artillery to the team. COL Weistner and the Thunder Battalion are making a difference already

working in our battlespace. They are true professionals – and bring some great experience to this fight. I continue to be very proud of what we are doing as an organization. Your efforts are making a positive difference here north of Baghdad. Continue to check your lane, watch

your buddy and accomplish the mission at hand today. Fort Hood, the United States, beer, and all the other things you miss will be there, if you take care of things in the here and now. Keep up the great work.

Colonel Jim Pasquarette  
Raider 6

# Actions on battlefield bring pride to BCT

(continued from page 3)  
comes. You must accept the necessity to obey orders and carry out those orders to the best of your ability and placing the needs of others above

your own.

Your actions here in Iraq on this battlefield have brought pride and tradition to this great Raider Brigade. If this doesn't clarify things then

remember that I'm part gorilla, and I'll tear you from limb to limb if you are not doing your utmost to bring credit to yourself, your unit and the U.S. Army!



U.S. Army photo by Sgt. 1st Class Brent Hunt

**Straight Arrows in Iraq...** Members of the 4th Bn., 42nd FA Regt., 1st BCT, 4th Inf. Div., staff take time out of their day to get a picture taken on Camp Taji, Sept. 6.



# Patrol Base Courage support Soldiers helping 'Regulars' patrol

By Sgt. 1st Class Brent Hunt  
*Editor, Raider Review*

**N**estled on the outskirts of Baghdad, lies a tiny U.S. Army camp dubbed Patrol Base Courage where many Soldiers of the 1st Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, the "Raiders," call home, Aug. 15.

As the Raiders move into their ninth month of a year-long deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, Soldiers of the 1st Battalion, 22nd Infantry Regiment, 1st BCT, who patrol the western Baghdad region, often visit the base to get their trucks fixed, get some hot food or cool liquids in their bellies, take a shower or just get a much needed break from the 12-hour patrols they conduct in the stifling August heat of Iraq.

To help out the "Regulars" of 1st Bn., 22nd Inf. Regt., a group of Soldiers from Company E, Forward Support Co., 4th Spt. Bn., attached to 1st Bn., 22nd Inf. Regt., make life a little easier for the infantrymen while they are at Patrol Base Courage.

"We come out here for a week at a time and then another team comes out here for a week to replace us," said Sgt. Jennifer Hartman, a three year Army veteran who finds herself running the dining facility on Patrol Base Courage. "We feed more than 350 Soldiers a day and we can sit about 80 at a time in the dining area."



*U.S. Army photo by Sgt. 1st Class Brent Hunt*

Sgt. Pedro Jauregui, water purification specialist, Co. A, 4th Spt. Bn., 4th Spt. Bn., attached to 1st Bn., 22nd Inf. Regt., 1st BCT, 4th Inf. Div., tests the water on the Reverse Osmosis Water Purification Unit used on Patrol Base Courage so Soldiers can take showers and cooks can clean their pots and pans at the base dining facility, Aug. 14.

In a field setting, a dining facility normally serves two hot meals a day with a Meal Ready to Eat for lunch. Soldiers usually have to stand while eating their meal because there is no formal dining area. But, Hartman believes everyone deserves at least one hot meal a day and a decent place to eat their meal.

"Some of these guys who do the 12-hour patrols only come in here once a day. We serve three hot meals a day so everyone has a chance to get one while they are here. They deserve it."

If a hot meal is not enough, Soldiers can jump in the shower to cool off and clean up at the base which uses a Reverse Osmosis Water Purification Unit to pump water into the shower trailer.

"We are the only ones who come and do this," said Sgt. Pedro Jauregui, water purification specialist, Co. A, 4th Spt. Bn., attached to Co. E, Fwd. Spt. Co. "This system is capable of producing 600 gallons an hour, although we only go through about 6,000 gallons a day. We use about 4,000 gallons for the showers and 2,000 for the dining facility daily."

The water purification system pumps water from a local stream and takes it through a series of three filters before it is chlorinated. The first filter takes out large materials such as wood. The second gets rid of all the sand and mud, and the third takes out the bacteria. Just in case the water is still not clean enough to be potable, the water sits in giant sacks where  
(go to page 12, *Echo*)

# Raider Civil Affairs teams helping rebuild local cities infrastructure

By Spc. C. Terrell Turner  
Staff Writer

**W**hile the effort to stabilize and secure Iraq continues, Multi-National Division-Baghdad Soldiers continue to assist communities north of Baghdad in building or repairing essential services while also working side by side with Iraqi Security Forces Aug. 12.

Civil Affairs units provide support to regional councils and contractors as they work towards bringing civic necessities like electricity and water to the local communities. Currently, the 1st Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, CA assets maintain supervision over numerous infrastructure projects in the Taji region.

Team 5, Company C, 414th CA Battalion, 1st Special Troops Battalion, 1st BCT, and Maj. Herb Joliat, brigade CA officer, reviewed several previous and current projects in the Taji region. During the mission, they visited construction sites near a medical clinic, an Iraqi police station and a local



U.S. Army photo by Spc. C. Terrell Turner

**An Iraqi contractor surveys the construction products he is in charge of along with Maj. Herb Joliat, brigade Civil Affairs officer, 1st BCT, 4th Inf. Div., in the Mushada region Aug. 12. MND-B Soldiers work directly with regional council members to support and provide funds for repairs and renovations in the region.**

water treatment facility which supplies water to both Taji and Baghdad.

"We assist the nahias with projects and getting bids for them," said Sgt. John Prince, CA sergeant, Team 5. "They choose what projects they want to do and we send them through our process to see what will be approved."

As a local council decides what projects they want to move forward, the contractors are hired to do the work and the CA personnel review the work to ensure quality assurance.

"The projects are going

pretty good because we use local labor instead of labor out of Baghdad," said Joliat. "A local contractor has ownership and a responsibility to the work. They don't have to go back and forth and they bend over backwards because the work is on him."

The 414th CA Bn. is the second CA battalion to work under Joliat after the 490th CA Bn., rotated out earlier this year. Joliat works closely with the units and local councils.

"My role is to deconflict issues with the brigade and help facilitate whatever the

units need in each area," said Joliat. "I do all the project purchasing for the brigade and verify the work done and the quality of the construction."

Since the 1st BCT has taken responsibility in the Taji region, Joliat has spent time in the community and sometimes resides at patrol bases to be closer to the projects and community in the Saab al Bour and the Husseinaya areas.

There are currently five CA teams in the 1st BCT area of operations.

"We've been working here in the Mushada area since April, about a month after we got here," said Capt. Lee Howard, CA team leader, Team 5. "We work mostly with the nahias in the Mushada region. We have about 15 projects ongoing and another 15 in the process of getting approved."

Howard said Joliat is very helpful and helps them do their job.

"All of our projects go through him (Joliat)," said Howard. "He gives us guidance on the brigade objectives and has a lot of civil affairs experience. He's very knowledgeable on how to work projects through the brigade and up through division."

# 1st BCT helping IPs ride in style

By Spc. C. Terrell Turner  
*Staff Writer*

**M**ulti-National Division-Baghdad Soldiers continue to recognize the needs of the Iraqi Security forces working towards a free and secure Iraq by providing logistical and tactical support to the police agencies in the Baghdad and Taji regions, Aug. 16.

In a rock-filled area near the 1st Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, Headquarters, 96 vehicles sit lined-up waiting to be assigned to regional Iraqi police stations. Soldiers from the 4th Support Battalion, 1st BCT, fueled the police trucks with the help of Soldiers from 463rd Military Police Company, out of Fort Leonard Wood, Mo., attached to the 1st BCT.

The 463rd MP Co. is part of the police transition teams that train the Iraqi police force in becoming more proficient in their duties of securing the streets of Iraq.

"We work with the Iraqi police on a daily basis going on joint patrols and teaching them classes," said Staff Sgt. Gloria Bransdor, administration non-commissioned officer, Headquarters Platoon, 463rd MP Co. "We help them develop standard operating procedures and make sure they have accountability of their equipment."

The Iraqi police continue to strive towards maximum capability in dealing with violence and terrorists in the Baghdad region, with the help and supervision of the PTTs.



*U.S. Army photo by Spc. C. Terrell Turner*

**Sgt. Sara Gates, petroleum lab NCO, Co. A, 4th Spt. Bn., 1st BCT, 4th Inf. Div., tightens and checks valves on a fueler truck while Soldiers from the 463rd MP Co., attached to the 1st BCT, line-up Iraqi police trucks for refueling on Camp Taji, Aug. 16.**

"I've been here for about seven and a half months now working with the 1st Brigade (1st BCT) provost marshal, Capt. (Scott) Ball," said Sgt. 1st Class Ronnie Hudson, PTT operations sergeant, HQ Platoon., 463rd MP Co. "We manage 17 IP stations in three police districts with about 1,400 Iraqi police officers."

These vehicles are part of an overall police force improvement project in the Tarmiya region. In addition to the 600 new Iraqi police recruited from the area with the help of the PTTs, over 1,000 weapons were turned over to police units. MND-B continues to provide financing for supplies as the Ministry of Interior works out a budget for the police force. Civilian police assistance and transition teams currently manage the transition process of the Iraqi police to take over their areas of operations.

Supplies are handed out as the

shortages of each district are measured and quantified.

"Supplies are provided based on shortages from police stations in their monthly reports to us that show their status, amount of personnel and what the shortages are," said Hudson.

Approximately 800 police trucks will be handed out in the greater Baghdad region. PTT patrols escort the IPs onto Camp Taji to pick up the trucks and then escort them safely back to their police stations. Hudson sees the Iraqis making quite a bit of progress during his time here.

"This equipment was much needed. When we first got here, there were only a few police officers in the stations in civilian uniform who wouldn't go out on patrol," said Hudson. "Once we got them the resources and recruits, they started manning checkpoints, controlling entry control points. It went from five guys (go to page 12, vehicles)"



# Welding together for a better Iraq

By Sgt. Lisa Copeland  
Co. B, 4th Spt. Bn.

**T**he Allied Trades portion of the Service and Recovery Section, Company B, 4th Support Battalion, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, began the design and fabrication of gun turret shields for the 9th Iraqi Army Division's fleet of T-55 and T-72 main battle tanks on Camp Taji, Aug. 16.

The mission started with a request from the 2nd Tank Bde., 9th Iraqi Army Div. Military Transition Team about the possibility of outfitting the brigade's fleet of tanks with armor plated turrets to protect the tanks against small arms fire while manning

checkpoints and on patrols.

The welders set to work on the request and after a few cuts and several welds; the first modified T-72 was complete, capturing the eyes of the entire Iraqi division. Since then, requests to complete more than 100 gun turret shields by Sept. 1 keep the welders working around the clock.

The Soldiers deal with the extreme heat from both being outdoors and their tools of their trade, working in an environment where daytime temperatures exceed 120 degrees. The 1st BCT team assembled from 4th Spt. Bn. and the Forward Support Companies of 1st Bn., 66th Armor Regiment; 7th Squadron, 10th Cavalry Regiment and the 4th Bn., 42nd Field Artillery Regiment continue to meet the challenge of this mission.

Despite the harsh working conditions, Soldiers remain positive and motivated about their job.

Spc. Keith Jennings, welder, Co. B, said, "I became a welder because I like burning stuff and I like working around electricity."

Pfc. Larrisa Schwab, welder, Co. B, was inspired by a TV show.

"I was watching this motorcycle show and they were doing some welding and it looked cool," she said. "I also enjoy building stuff, so I thought 'why not'."

The team has completed 20 sets of gun turret shields and will provide the welders of the 9th Iraqi Army Div. the training necessary to outfit their fleet.

The work accomplished by these Soldiers is a step in the continued effort to support growing confidence in the Iraqi military.

## CA, medics help residents of Hor al Bash

By Sgt. 1st Class Joe Flores  
7th Sqdn., 10th Cav. Regt.

**U**nder the blazing Iraqi sun, Soldiers of the 2nd Tank Brigade, 9th Iraqi Army Division; 7th Squadron, 10th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Bde. Combat Team, 4th Infantry Div.; and 414th Civil Affairs Battalion, attached to the 1st Special Troops Bn., 1st BCT, fought the heat to conduct a community health outreach



U.S. Army photo by Sgt. 1st Class Joe Flores

**Capt. Evan Jones, physician's assistant assigned to 7th Sqdn., 10th Cav. Regt., 1st BCT, 4th Inf. Div., checks a local boy for medical problems at a medical operation at Hor al Bash, Aug. 20.**

for the people of Hor Al Bash, Aug. 20.

Iraqi medics with the support of medics from the 1st BCT screened patients

and provided medical assistance to the residents.

"We conducted a medical operation at the Tartawar Primary School

and provided citizens with free pharmaceuticals and screenings," said Capt. William LeFever, team leader, Civil Affairs Team 1, Company C, 414th CA Bn. "We supplied about \$5,000 worth of pharmaceuticals purchased from a local pharmacy.

"This was an opportunity to also deliver a school kit to the school in preparation for the upcoming school year," LaFever added. "Today, we provided this school with notebooks, folders, chalk, pens, pencils, water coolers and other supplies."

# Fixing bridges over troubled waters

By Spc. C. Terrell Turner  
Staff Writer

**S**oldiers from the 50th Engineer Company, 84th Eng. Brigade, traveled north of Baghdad to repair and maintain bridges crucial to Coalition forces, Iraqi security forces and local citizens while Soldiers from the 1st Battalion, 66th Armor Regiment, 1st Bde. Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division; 7th Squadron, 10th Cavalry Regt., 1st BCT and the Iraqi army provided security for the sappers, Aug. 21.

As missions continue for Coalition forces and Iraqi security forces in the northern Baghdad region, the infrastructure of the communities must be maintained. Many bridges constructed by combat engineer units are in need of maintenance and repair to maintain combat effectiveness. Soldiers from 50th Eng. Co., (Multi-role Bridge) stationed at Fort Leonard Wood, Mo., traveled from Balad Air Base to different areas including the Taji region to an Iraqi army checkpoint on a bridge.

"Our mission is to repair and upgrade existing military bridges," said 1st Lt. Nate Hanawalt, platoon leader, bridge platoon, 50th Eng. Co. "Every once and awhile these things get blown up and we deploy to build bridges to maintain the infrastructure."

Into their ninth month of deployment, Hanawalt remembered the unit surpassing 50 bridge missions after six months, but could not remember the exact number of current bridge operations. The 50th



U.S. Army photo by Spc. C. Terrell Turner

**Spc. Kevin Sentieri, boat operator (right) and Sgt. Andrew Valdez (left), bridge crew member from the 50th Eng. Co., 84th Eng. Bde. deployed to Balad Air Base, traveled to the Taji region to repair a military bridge in the 1st BCT, 4th Inf. Div.'s area of operations while Soldiers of the Iraqi army and the 1st BCT provided security, Aug. 21.**

Eng. Co. is one the biggest bridge units operating in Iraq.

In addition to building float bridges and repairing dry bridges, the unit also trains Iraqi engineering soldiers and military units from other countries including Georgia and Romania.

"This is our third trip here to Taji," said Staff Sgt. Keelin Scott, section leader, 50th Eng. Co. "Three of our other teams came here before to train Iraqis on different types of bridges and equipment. In fact, we sent a reconnaissance NCO (non-commissioned officer) out on a training mission with a group of Iraqis and noticed the need for repairs."

The 50th Eng. Co. owns and reuses their floating bridge pieces while the dry bridges are repaired using parts from bridge kits they have at their home location in Balad.

In addition to repairs, Soldiers on the bridge repair teams conduct patrols in boats on the rivers.

Their latest project was built by

U.S. Marines years before using a commercially produced bridge kit, known as a Mabey Johnson bridge.

"It's a British company that makes all the pieces," said Staff Sgt. Alexander Campillo, section sergeant, 50th Eng. Co. "One of their reps usually does come out and help, but at this point we got it under control."

The length of the missions vary depending on the types of missions.

"It can be a challenging job at times, but enjoyable," said Spc. Kevin Sentieri, boat operator, 50th Eng. Co. "We go out once or twice a month depending on the missions and stay out from a few days to a month at a time. The hardest part is building at night. It just adds another level of complexity to an operation."

The mission continues for the engineers across Iraq.

"The Iraqis are getting better and better at working on the bridges," said Scott. "If you put these bridges together right, they'll last forever."



# Co. A, 4th Spt. Bn., teaching Iraqi army soldiers to drive, drive, drive

By Sgt. 1st Class Brent Hunt  
*Editor, Raider Review*

In an effort to strengthen the Iraqi army and increase their combat effectiveness, Soldiers from Company A, 4th Support Battalion, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, are training Iraqi soldiers of the Logistics Bn., 2nd Tank Bde., 9th Iraqi Army Div., on how to use their transportation equipment better and safely on Camp Taji, Aug. 24.

The classes teach Iraqi soldiers how to use hand and arm signals, tie-down procedures for heavy equipment, proper preventative maintenance checks and services, safety procedures and driving as a team.

"We started this about three months ago with about 50 Iraqi army soldiers," said Staff Sgt. Phillip Clark, a truck driver with Co. A. "We really hit on safety hard, because this is big equipment that can hurt or kill you. A lot of these guys were in the old Iraqi army, so they know the equipment and they understand what we are trying to teach them."

The classes are about two weeks long and are a mixture of classroom instruction and hands on training. The instructors go out and watch the Iraqi army soldiers load equipment on their trucks, how they drive in formations and then how they maintain their vehicles before and after the mission



U.S. Army photo by Sgt. 1st Class Brent Hunt

From left, Sgt. Ghaleb Jowad, truck driver, Logistics Bn., 2nd Tank Bde., 9th IA Div., an interpreter, Staff Sgt. Phillip Clark, truck driver, Co. A, 4th Spt. Bn., 1st BCT, 4th Inf. Div., and Sgt. Brian Stoker, also a truck driver with Co. A, discuss how to take care of a crane on Camp Taji, Aug. 24.

is complete. Then the soldiers head back to the classroom and they are taught by the American instructors how they could have performed the mission better and more effectively.

"The IA soldiers have been doing very well," Clark added. "They are eager to learn and when the training is complete they hit the ground running. What we are doing is not trying to make them the American Army, we watch them work on their equipment and show them how to improve."

The vehicles the Iraqi army soldiers use are for transporting supplies to 9th Iraqi Army Div. soldiers who are currently stationed in Baghdad in an effort to curb sectarian violence that plagues the Iraqi capital. For many, this is the first time they have ever loaded and tied down a

heavy piece of equipment, such as a T-72 main battle tank, to the back of a truck.

"The IA soldiers do really well and they are eager to learn," said Sgt. Brian Stoker, drivers training instructor with Co. A who is from Simi Valley, Calif. "They are always here before us and all they want to do is drive, drive, drive. We taught them to PMCS the vehicle before class begins, so the vehicle is ready to go once class begins."

"They are good instructors and they have taught us a lot," said Sgt. Ghaleb Jowad, a truck driver with the Iraqi Logistics Bn. "They take care of us and we like them. Everybody likes to go to the classes. This is the first time I've seen the Americans work with us and that is very good."

# Echo Company moving supplies regularly

—(continued from page 6)  
small doses of chlorine are used to kill any remaining bacteria.

“I’m going to stay out here for the duration of the deployment just in case something goes wrong with the ROWPU,” Jauregui added. “If this thing breaks down, there are no showers for the Soldiers and the DFAC has to go to bottled water to clean their pots and pans.”

In addition to serving Soldiers with hot chow and showers, Soldiers of the company move tons of supplies out to remote bases such as Patrol Base Courage on the roadside bomb-laced roads of Iraq. Co. E takes supplies out to Soldiers who patrol the area so they spend less time driving back and forth to Camp Liberty and more time keeping Baghdad safe.



U.S. Army photo by Sgt. 1st Class Brent Hunt  
Staff Sgt. Mark Overturf, petroleum supply specialist with Co. E, Fwd. Spt. Co., 4th Spt. Bn., attached to the 1st Bn., 22nd Inf. Regt., 1st BCT, 4th Inf. Div., unloads a pallet of bottled water with a fork-lift on Patrol Base Courage, Aug. 13.

“We are out here everyday, resupplying bases like this (Patrol Base Courage),” said Staff Sgt. Mark Overturf, convoy commander of one the logistical package convoys who is on his third OIF tour. “Today, for instance, I thought we were going to have to come here, go to another patrol base, supply them and then come back

here again.

“Instead, we decided to combine supplies on one truck and put a disabled vehicle, which we were going to have to come back for, on the empty truck,” Overturf added. “This will save us a lot of time and it will be a whole lot less dangerous, because we don’t have to be out on the road as much today.”

When it comes to being on the road, there is probably nothing worse than a broken-down vehicle especially in Iraq. To help Soldiers out with keeping their patrols rolling, mechanics of Co. E are on Patrol Base Courage just in case a vehicle needs a little tender loving care.

“Whenever one of the 1-22 vehicles breaks down, we can fix it here,” said Sgt. Ross Rutledge, a Bradley Fighting Vehicle mechanic with the company. “We get about two or three vehicles a day in here. For instance, this one (a Humvee Rutledge was working on) got hit by an IED (Improvised Explosive Device). We are replacing the rear tires, the gears and the drive shaft. It should be ready to roll again, shortly, so they can continue their mission.”

## Vehicles helping IPs combat terrorism

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in a station to over a hundred IPs in their uniforms working with the Iraqi army on joint patrols.”

With the proper materials and manpower in place, Joint Coordination Centers, Iraqi police and Iraqi army operation centers, give the security forces additional tools to combat terrorists and

maintain order.

“They’re (JCCs) doing very well,” said Hudson. “They receive a lot of tips since the mission started and it helps improve their relationship. The Iraqi police, Iraqi army and Coalition Forces are recovering more caches and the Iraqis are getting better at their missions as word gets out.”



U.S. Army photo by Spc. C. Terrell Turner  
Pvt. Mohammed Quraishi, petroleum supply specialist, Co. A, 4th Spt. Bn., 1st BCT, 4th Inf. Div., fills up an Iraqi police vehicle on Camp Taji, Aug. 16.



# Scenes around the Raider Brigade



U.S. Army photo courtesy of CSM Robert Wells

Staff Sgt. Wilfredo Egipciaco, an infantryman assigned to Co. B, 1st Bn., 66th AR and attached to 7th Sqdn., 10th Cav. Regt., 1st BCT, 4th Inf. Div., checks a danger area during a dismounted patrol near Mushada.



U.S. Army photo by Spc. C. Terrell Turner

Sgt. Gilbert Valle, engineer, Co. E, 1st Bn., 66th AR, 1st BCT, 4th Inf. Div., receives a Bronze Star Medal with V-device from Col. James Pasquarette, brigade commander, during the monthly awards ceremony on Camp Taji, Aug. 18.



U.S. Army photo courtesy of 4th Bn., 42nd FA Regt.

An Iraqi T-72 tank from 1st Tank Bn., 2nd Tank Bde., 9th IA Div., drives onto a U.S. Army Heavy Equipment Transport vehicle supported by Co. G, 4th Bn., 42nd FA Regt., 1st BCT, 4th Inf. Div.



U.S. Army photo by Sgt. 1st Class Brent Hunt

Cpl. Michael Heffley, military policeman, 463rd MP Co., attached to the 1st BCT, helps Iraqi policemen add 4,500 gallons of fuel to one of their 5,000 gallon gasoline tanks at the Abu Ghraib IP Station in Baghdad, Aug. 8. Soldiers from the Co. A, 4th Spt. Bn., delivered the fuel to help the police unit curb sectarian violence in the city.



U.S. Army photo by PM 2nd Class Eli Medellin

Capt. Aixa Espino, physician, Co. C, 4th Spt. Bn., 1st BCT, 4th Inf. Div., attends to one of the 50 patients that showed up for the Medical Operation in Hor al Bash, Aug. 20.



U.S. Army photo by Staff Sgt. Mark Biggins

Spc. Elvira Tinajero, battalion personnel and mail room clerk, HHC, 4th Spt. Bn., 1st BCT, 4th Inf. Div., stocks the battalion mail room after picking up the daily mail from the Camp Taji Postal Distribution Warehouse.



U.S. Army photo by 4th Bn., 42nd FA Regt.

Staff Sgt. Melvin Williams and Sgt. Douglas Williams, both wheeled vehicle operators assigned to Co. G, 4th Bn., 42nd FA Regt., secure an Iraqi T72 tank to the back of a Heavy Equipment Transport vehicle.



# IPs ready to take security lead in cities

—(continued from page 1)  
uniforms and weapons.

“When we arrived here, they (the IPs) were not able to sustain themselves (without Iraqi army or Coalition support),” said 2nd Lt. Mitchell Thompson, platoon leader, 463rd MP Co. “They are now able to sustain operations on their own. For instance, they (policemen at the Tarmiya Police Station) have taken over several checkpoints in the Tarmiya district and are now able to maintain numerous patrols throughout the city.”

In the year dubbed “Year of the Iraqi Police,” Multi-National Division-Baghdad Soldiers along with their Iraqi counterparts have stepped up efforts to put the Iraqi policemen in the lead for security throughout Baghdad and the surrounding area.



U.S. Army photo by Sgt. 1st Class Brent Hunt

**Spc. Patrick Hart, military policeman, 463rd MP Co., hands over the keys to an Iraqi police lieutenant of the Tarmiya Police Station for seven of the 18 new Chevrolet 3500 Iraqi police trucks being distributed to the station on Camp Taji, Aug. 26.**

For instance, just seven months ago in Tarmiya, the police station had less than 20 policemen patrolling by foot in the city of more than 35,000 residents. They only had two broken down vehicles, no uniforms and virtually no body armor, bullets or even weapons for the policemen’s protection.

Now the city has more than 145 Iraqi policemen

and they are equipped with new body armor, uniforms, bullets, 1,000 Glocks, 1,000 AK-47s and enough vehicles to patrol and make a real change in the community.

“These vehicles have enough power to chase the bad guys if we have to,” said an Iraqi police officer in Tarmiya. “I like these vehicles and they will be very good for patrols. I also have a vest to protect my body, a Glock to protect myself, a helmet to protect my head and a vehicle to patrol.”

Before the police started taking control of security, the Iraqi army and Coalition forces enforced security throughout the region’s cities. With the Iraqi police starting to build in strength and support, the police can now take the lead for security throughout cities in

the region while the Iraqi army and Coalition forces concentrate on building an Iraqi army capable of defending the entire country.

“I think they (the IPs) have improved dramatically,” Thompson added. “Now the police chiefs are taking charge of their stations and telling the policemen what needs to happen and it does happen.”

In addition to the new equipment, 2,000 new Iraqi police recruits are scheduled to hit the streets in Baghdad and the surrounding area by the end of this month to help reinforce the growing security force.

“This year has been a blessing for the IPs,” said Sgt. Andy Piazza, an MP from the 463rd MP Co., who is on his second tour in support of OIF. “The last time I was here, they (the IPs) didn’t have uniforms and they couldn’t even get bullets.

“Now, they are not only getting enough bullets, but we are getting them brand new guns and they have new uniforms,” Piazza added. “It is a lot better. Their motivation is up, because we are starting to get them what they need. The new IP recruits are very motivated that are about to hit the streets.”



U.S. Army photo by Sgt. 1st Class Brent Hunt

**Iraqi policemen from Saab al Bour get ready to roll out in six new Chevrolet 3500 trucks distributed to the police station on Camp Taji, Aug. 25.**